



NEWS RELEASE

07-027

Today's Date: Thursday, April 12, 2007
District: 1 - Eureka
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Adopt-A-Highway Volunteer No April Fool

Sunday, April 1st started out like most other Sundays for Lynn Crosthwait. Since she adopted Highway 211 from the Eel River Bridge at Fernbridge to the 101/211 interchange two years ago she can be found almost every Sunday morning picking up litter to keep her section of highway clean.

But on this Sunday morning, as Crosthwait started her cleanup from the south-end near Fernbridge, she noticed occasional pieces of dark plastic scattered with the normal trash. She noticed they looked like x-rays of teeth, but she did not think too much of them, and simply cast them into her trash bag. However, as she continued to work closer to the intersection of Highway 211 and Eel River Drive these pieces of plastic, some similar in size to 35MM slides, some in clear plastic holders with four or more together, and some as large as 6" x 12", became more frequent.

When she arrived at the intersection they were everywhere! Hundreds of small x-rays, a dozen of the large ones, and dozens of white envelopes with patient names written on them were scattered over a large area. Some were along the sides of the road, but many others were still in the road being run-over by the traffic. Some of the envelopes were still stuffed full of x-rays, and others had been ripped open and scattered by the traffic. At this point she realized this was not random trash, and decided to gather up these x-rays in a separate bag.

There were so many x-rays Crosthwait thought to herself, "Caltrans [maintenance workers] would probably use rakes to gather up these small x-rays, but I had none, so I used my hands to gather them up." When she was done with the litter cleanup, she pondered what she should do with the x-rays. She called the Caltrans District 1 Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator, Nita Brake-Mills, to ask what to do with them. Brake-Mills made arrangements to pick them up from her.





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Brake-Mills noticed that most of the x-rays had a Dr. Zabek's name on them, and some also had his San Francisco address. She used that information to get his telephone number and call him. Dr. Zabek said he does not know how the x-rays ended up strewn across a highway in Humboldt County. However, he let someone borrow his pick-up and perhaps there had been some x-rays left in it. He was very thankful they had been retrieved. Praising the Adopt-A-Highway program, Dr. Zabek said "The [Adopt-A-Highway] program deserves some good press for the work that is done."

You might think that this is the only exciting thing that could have happened to Crosthwait in the two years since she adopted that short section of highway, but you would be wrong. She said this is the second exciting event that has happened to her, "About one and a half years ago there was a robbery at the [Bear River] casino. The robbery was captured on video, but the suspect got away with the victim's wallet. On my Sunday litter clean-up I found the wallet alongside the road and turned it over to the Sheriffs Department."

X-rays, wallets, what else do Adopt-A-Highway volunteers find? Find out for yourself by adopting your own section of state highway by contacting Nita Brake-Mills at (707) 441-5761. You will be joining the 302 other groups that comprise the Caltrans District 1 Adopt-A-Highway Program in Del Norte, Humboldt, Lake, and Mendocino Counties. These groups removed almost 5,000 bags of trash from our local highways last year.

NOTE TO MEDIA: Accompanying photos and/or video can be obtained by contacting Phil Frisbie, Jr. at (707) 441-4678.

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